CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Virginia 22313 1450 on March 26, 2004

By: Edward C. Meagher

Date: March 26, 2004

PATENT

Docket No. 1830CONDIVCON3 / 203-1742CONDIVCON3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

SHERTS ET AL.

TITLE

SURGICAL RETRACTOR

PARENT

SERIAL NO.

10/153,385

PARENT

FILED

May 22, 2002

PARENT

EXAMINER

Anu Ramana

PARENT

ART UNIT

3732

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified continuation application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the drawings begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.